take the properties of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai under its superintendence ;

(b) have the Government satisfied themselves that the management of the estate of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai and his minor brother by the Court will affect the public beneficially;

(c) if so, on what grounds;

(d) have the Government ascertained the public view in the matter, before ordering the Court to assume control over the estate ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a). Under section 17.

(b) Yes.

(c) The estate itself and its numerous tenants and creditors should be saved from ruin.

(d) No.

238. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—(a) whether they can assure this House from their experience of the estate of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai that the liabilities of the estate do not exceed the assets;

(b) whether they are able to liquidate the debts of the estate within a reasonable time;

(c) if so, in what time and in what manner ;

(d) if with reference to sub-divisions (a) and (c) no definite answers can be given, will they be pleased to abandon the management of the estate so that public interest contemplated in section 17 of the Court of Wards Regulation may not be endangered ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is too early at this stage to give any definite answer.

(d) The management was assumed chiefly to safeguard the interests of the estate and of all those who had claims on the estate. The necessity for abandoning it has not yet arisen.

239. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that the annual income from the estate of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai falls far short of the interests on the liabilities;

(b) if the answer is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to ascertain from correctly obtained facts and figures whether it is so;

(c) the total amount of liabilities ascertained from claim petitions received hitherto under section 36 of the Court of Wards Regulation;

(d) how much of that amount are not binding on the minor and the family;

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(e) whether they have taken notice of the fact that any liquidation of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai's personal debts from the joint funds will prejudicially affect the minor;

(f) whether they have realised that any indiscriminate liquidation of the personal debts of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai will lead the Government to unnecessary confusion and risk?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a) Yes, at present. The Court is taking steps to liquidate the debts.

(b) No answer is called for in view of the reply to (a) above.

(c), (d), (e) & (f). The Court is not at present in a position to supply information on these points. The matter is under investigation.

240. **Mr. George Chakyamuri.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they are aware of the fact that a vast number of poor people including helpless widows have deposited money in the estate from the time of the ancestors of the present wards;

(b) whether they are aware that the Court was not able to meet the demands of their dues till this time;

(c) whether they are aware that the creditors are put to much misery and distress in not getting their dues in spite of the Court management?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a), (b) & (c). One of the objects of the assumption of the management by the Court was to liquidate the estate debts. The Court is taking necessary steps in this direction.

241. **Mr. George Chakyamuri.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Court of Wards has taken under its control all the properties of the wards, Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai and his minor brother, including those in Travancore and British India;

(b) if the answer is in the negative, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether any requisition has been made upon Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai by the Court of Wards authorities to hand over to the Court the properties situated in Travancore and British India;

(d) whether any wilful omission has been noticed, by the Court in the ward in the handing over of such properties?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a)&(b). All the properties in the Cochin State have been brought under the control of the Court of Wards. The properties in Travan-

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